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awe and keep in ſubjection the wild inhabitants. The *Elouki* may be reckoned the chief of all the rivers that fall into the *Kamtſchatka* on the left ſide, and its head meets that of the *Tegbil*.

The *Tegbil* runs almoſt in the ſame latitude with the *Kamtſchatka*; and the ſtrait road from the one to the other is by the river *Elouki*. Some little forts and ſettlements of the natives are ſcattered here and there upon its banks.

The *Bolſchaia-reka*, or Great River, called by the natives *Keekſka*, runs out of a lake 185 verſts to the eaſt from its mouth, and falls into the *Penſchinſka* ſea in the latitude of 52° 45′. Its mouth is reckoned to be 555 verſts to the ſouth diſtant from that of the *Tegbil*. It is called Great upon this account, that of all the rivers that fall into the *Penſchinſka* ſea this is the only one which they can navigate from its mouth nearly to its ſpring, and this not without ſome difficulty, on account of its rapidity and the great number of iſlands. At the time of high water it is ſo deep at the mouth that large veſſels may enter; for the water has been obſerved to riſe at full and new moon very little leſs than nine *Paris* feet or four *Ruſſian* yards. It receives a multitude of rivulets; the moſt conſiderable of which is the *Biſtroy* or Rapid River, ſo called from the ſwiftneſs of its ſtream, cauſed by the many ſhoals and cataracts. You may go from the mouth of the Great River to that of the *Biſtroy*, and up within 40 verſts of its head; and from thence over a carrying place to the river *Kamtſchatka*, that ſprings out of the ſame marſh, and runs quite to the Eaſtern Ocean. And though this paſſage muſt be laborious and tedious, upon account of the rapidity of the river, and the many ſhoals and cataracts, where every thing muſt be carried by land, and which would render it impoſſible to advance more than 10 verſts in a day (as I found in my way to *Kamtſchatka* in the year 1739, when the boats were carried over the marſh, about two verſts from the head of the Rapid, to *Kamtſchatka*); yet, conſidering

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489 conſidering that all ſorts of carriages in the ſummer are worked from one ſettlement to another by men, the ſaid paſſage by water would be a great help to the people of this country who are obliged to carry ſtores and baggage for the government: for, inſtead of employing 10 or 15 men about a carriage of 20 pood, the ſame would be performed with leſs trouble in a ſmall boat by two; and to encreaſe the facility of commerce, there would at all times be a free road, which is the caſe now only in winter.

It may be hoped, however, that even without ſuch a road this difficulty will be removed, when the new colony ſettled there ſhall have a ſufficient number of horſes for drawing thoſe carriages. From the *Bolſcheretſkoi* to the upper fort you may travel in carts drawn by horſes; but, in ſummer, this is practicable in no other part of the country by reaſon of frequent obſtructions from rivers, marſhes, lakes, and high mountains.

133 The *Baranew* rivulet is particularly remarkable for the number of boiling ſprings which are found near it. It falls into the *Keekſha*, on the ſouth-eaſt ſide, 44 verſts from *Bolſcheretſkoi*; and upon the mouth of it ſtands the ſettlement *Kalickin*, or *Opachin*, which is about 70 verſts diſtant from the boiling ſprings.

The river *Awatſcha* riſes from under a mountain about 150 verſts from its mouth, and runs from weſt to eaſt 'till it falls into the bay of St. *Peter* and St. *Paul* in the Eaſtern Ocean, almoſt in the ſame latitude with the *Keekſha*. This river is very near as large as the laſt, and of more utility.

The bay of St. *Peter* and St. *Paul*, or *Awachinſkaya* bay, is 14 verſts in length, and as many in breadth, of a circular form, and ſurrounded on all ſides by high rocky mountains. Its mouth, conſidering the ſpace of the bay, is very narrow, and ſo deep that ſhips of all dimenſions may enter it without any danger. Upon its banks are built, by order of the navy, officers' apartments, barracks, magazines, *&c.* On the north ſide of the

Awachinſkaya

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134 preſent are no woods, but only ſhrubs, and ſtunted ſallows, and birches, were formerly covered with water, which has decreaſed by degrees here, as it has upon the north-eaſtern coaſt. Below the earth lies a bed of pure ice, extremely hard; and under that a ſoft wateriſh clay, with gravel; this continues from the ſea up to the very mountains, and will ſufficiently account for the barrenneſs of theſe parts. But, though the land is not every where fit for agriculture, yet ſome places upon the river *Kamtſchatka* (which have been already mentioned) and along the *Biſtroy* river, are ſufficient to furniſh with corn, not only the inhabitants, but alſo the neighbouring parts. It is however to be feared, that the burning of the woods, in order to clear the lands, may drive away the ſables, who have a particular averſion to ſmoke: this happened upon the river *Lena*, formerly the beſt hunting country, but now deſerted by theſe animals.

137 313 489 The ſcarcity of wood is a great inconvenience, both the *Ruſſians* and natives being obliged to fetch it twenty or thirty verſts with great trouble and loſs of time, for the neceſſary uſes of boiling their ſalt and curing their fiſh: and it is very difficult to bring it down in floats, becauſe the current is rapid and ſo ſhallow, that they can bring only two little bundles on each ſide of a ſmall fiſhing-boat; otherwiſe they would obſtruct themſelves in the management of their boat, and thereby run the riſk of being driven upon the rocks, ſand-banks, and trunks of trees, where not only their boat and wood, but frequently the people themſelves are loſt. Sometimes the ſcarcity of wood is ſupplied by ſuch as is thrown up by the ſea, which the inhabitants gather upon the ſhore; but this wood that has been ſoaked in the water, although they are at great pains to dry it, never burns clear, but ſmothers away with a continual ſmoke very hurtful to the eyes.

137 313 At the diſtance of 30 or 40 verſts from the ſea, and near the heads of the rivers, grow birch-trees, alder, and poplar; of which the people build their houſes and make their boats. But this

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal

posed to have fallen victims to it within a short period. Yet at this moment there is a want of vaccinating matter, nor is it a questionable assertion that the quality of medicines in the hospitals is shamefully adulterated, and the quantity small. The present worthy chief has however caused an inquiry to be made upon this subject, and the result has been transmitted to government. But it is not the small pox alone, that the arrival of the Russians introduced into this place; the distemper before alluded to has made, and continues to make, most dreadful ravages in every part of the peninsula, very few families being free from the taint, and no part of the world can show more miserable objects of its fury. The whole race indeed look like beings better qualified to extinguish than propagate the human species; nor is this surprising, considering their present state, almost without hospitals, medicines, or attendants, save that ill-managed house at Malka.

Besides these two diseases, the inhabitants of Kamtchatka are subject to all those which make havoc in countries where the people are ordinarily ill fed, ill clothed, and liable to famine. The last has frequently visited this Peninsula, more from a want of people than of food; for fish is not always to be had upon both sides of the Peninsula at the same time, and they have not the means of transporting the superabundant quantity to the opposite coast.